

**Mill Brook Corridor Study Group  
Meeting Minutes, April 24, 2018  
Arlington Town Hall, Second Floor Conference Room**

Group Attendees: Nat Strosberg, Ellen Cohen, Grace Dingee, Ed Gordon, Ann LeRoyer, Janet O’Riordan and Lela Shepherd

Minutes of March 20, 2018 meeting were approved.

We began our meeting with a review of the seven categories created at our last meeting for the “Action Steps” part of the updated Mill Brook Linear Corridor Report.

1. Environment/Ecosystem Management
2. Flood Control
3. Recreation
4. Economic Development
5. Transportation
6. Historical Context
7. Placemaking

“Infrastructure” was raised as a possible new category, but after discussion, it might be better suited as a subcategory in all of the above categories.

We briefly discussed the “Placemaking” category and suggested this could include other ideas.

At this point we decided to review the bullet items listed in each category, starting with the six bullets in “Environment/Ecosystem Management.”

While discussing the fourth bullet concerning the removal of invasive species, Lela pointed out that there are several groups in town including the DPW and Friends of Spy Pond who are addressing the extremely invasive Japanese Knotweed plant, found throughout the town and along Mill Brook. The DPW currently cuts the knotweed down to 2” once per year and dabs them with a herbicide. Other treatments being tried elsewhere include laying down plastic or spreading sawdust to suffocate the plants.

After reviewing the bulleted items, it was proposed that two subcategories could be added into which the bullets could be divided. Possible subcategories: Engineered Landscape Intervention and Ecologically-based Landscape Intervention. Further discussion needed on this subject.

Due to limited time, the group decided to continue the review of the remaining categories at the next meeting.

Lela Shepherd then discussed a grant application that the MVP Core Group (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) is working on and solicited suggestions for projects that could be included in the grant application. The MVP Core Group is exploring projects for Mill Brook and related flooding issues as a primary focus for this grant.

The grants range from \$10,000 to \$400,000. The application deadline is May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and the work must be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Town must also provide 25% in matching funds. The MVP Core Group has decided to focus on parts of Mill Brook abutting town-owned land.

Suggestions raised by the Mill Brook Corridor Study Group:

Revitalize the wetland in Meadowbrook Park by the cemetery where a pond used to be located.

Widen and possibly reroute the brook along Hurd Field to avoid flooding at nearby Colonial Village and downstream.

Stabilize the banks of the brook at various locations (near Drake Village and the Reservoir; Wellington Park as supplement to CPA grant project, etc.).

Build/rebuild walls to prevent erosion and overflows.

Identify locations for restoring former mill ponds and creating new rain gardens to absorb overflows.

Stabilize the area around Cooke's Hollow. Water has recently flowed across Mystic Street during a storm.

Other items:

1. The MVP Core Group is meeting on Friday, May 4, 2018 at 11am in the first floor conference room to discuss potential projects for the MVP grant application. All are welcome to join and help them brainstorm.

2. The next Mill Brook Corridor Study Group meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:30-10:30 am in the second floor conference room in the Town Hall Annex. Nat will email the agenda in the coming weeks.

Prepared by Janet O'Riordan

